



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

AFR/RC62/R7
22 November 2012

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixty-second session

Luanda, Republic of Angola, 19–23 November 2012

RESOLUTION

CONSIDERATION AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE BRAZZAVILLE DECLARATION ON NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES (Document AFR/RC62/8)

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the adoption of the Brazzaville Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) Prevention and Control in the WHO African Region by the Ministers of Health and Heads of Delegation of the WHO African Region, convened at a Regional Ministerial Consultation on NCDs Prevention and Control in Brazzaville, Congo, from 4 to 6 April 2011;

Cognizant of the ever-increasing double burden of communicable and noncommunicable diseases in the WHO African Region and the associated disabilities and premature deaths from NCDs;

Aware that NCDs were responsible for more than 3 million deaths in 2010, representing 40% of all deaths in the WHO African Region, and that if current trends continue, NCDs are projected to outstrip communicable, maternal, perinatal, and nutritional diseases as the most common cause of death in Africa by 2025;

Realizing that the major NCDs are linked to common risk factors, namely tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and in some cases infections and that these risk factors, combined with political, social, behavioural, environmental and economic determinants of health, underscore the need for a multisectoral response to combat NCDs;

Reaffirming that health is a fundamental human right and that the commitment to strengthening national health systems is the basis for a comprehensive approach to improved and equitable health outcomes;

Recognizing the financial gap, the critical shortage of skilled human resources for health, and the need for scaling up essential health interventions;

Recognizing the importance of the involvement and empowerment of communities in health development;

Cognizant of industry actions that may negatively influence the achievement of NCD targets;

Recalling recent commitments including: Noncommunicable diseases: A Strategy for the African Region (2000); Resolution WHA61.14 on Prevention and control of NCDs; the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC-2003); the report of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2008); the Ouagadougou Declaration on Primary Health Care and Health Systems in Africa (2008); the Nairobi Call to Action for Health Promotion (2009); and the Mauritius Call for Action on Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and NCDs (2009);

Noting that both the United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on NCDs (September 2011) and the preparatory Moscow Declaration (April 2011) strongly concurred with the Brazzaville Declaration;

Recalling Resolution WHA65.8 adopting a global target of 25% reduction of premature mortality from NCDs by 2025;

1. **ENDORSES** the Brazzaville Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases Prevention and Control in the WHO African Region;

2. **URGES** Member States:

- (a) to take appropriate action to update their health policies and national health strategic plans in line with the Brazzaville Declaration on NCDs Prevention and Control;
- (b) to build institutional capacity for implementing the Brazzaville Declaration by reorienting health systems and policies in other sectors towards the promotion and support of healthy lifestyles by individuals, families and communities within the primary health care context, with emphasis on the full implementation of existing WHO strategies on tobacco control, diet and physical activity for health and harmful use of alcohol;
- (c) to increase national resources both public and private, identify and take necessary actions to implement national policies and strategies for NCDs prevention and control and reduction of associated disabilities;
- (d) to strengthen health systems, especially: health financing; training; retention and expansion of the health workforce; procurement and distribution of medicines, vaccines, medical supplies and equipment; improvement of infrastructure; evidence-based and cost-effective service delivery for NCDs;
- (e) to institute, as a matter of priority, a monitoring and surveillance system for NCDs to generate reliable data and use evidence to raise awareness and strengthen political commitment for effective national actions for the prevention and control of NCDs using the life course approach;

3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director:

- (a) to continue to advocate for increased resources for NCDs Prevention and Control in the African Region;
- (b) to provide technical guidance and support to Member States for the implementation of the Brazzaville Declaration and existing WHO strategies on NCDs and to document and share best practices;

- (c) to support countries to strengthen NCDs surveillance, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- (d) to report to the Regional Committee in 2014 and thereafter every other year, on the progress made in the implementation of the Brazzaville Declaration on NCDs.